

Greenhouse Notes

April 2005

"A quarterly newsletter for Coastal Master Gardener Association members."

A Word from the President



We are in the thick of the busy spring season. More volunteer opportunities than we can keep track of, but oh, so rewarding if we offer our time and talents.

Look over the calendar carefully and see where you can best offer your help. Email me or any of the officers, directors with questions or comments about your current Master Gardener experience.

karena@willtrav.com.

A big thanks to those who are going above and beyond serving on committees and projects!

Congratulations and welcome to the 2005 class graduates. I know you have been enriched by the experience and we are grateful to have you!

Karen Agee
CMGA President 2005

* FIELD TRIP *



A "Field Trip" to The botanical garden at Georgia Southern is set for Saturday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m. We can pack lunches and picnic on the grounds of the gardens. There is one picnic table so people usually bring blankets and picnic on the grass. We plan to co-ordinate carpooling if there is an interest in that. Spouses are included and the admission is free. We need to know how many people plan to attend and ask that you let us know by the time of the picnic on April 30th.

If you have any questions, call Betsey Smith.



CMGA PICNIC

WELCOME CLASS OF 2005

Pavilion, Bamboo Farm
April 30, 11:30 – 1:30

Fried Chicken and drinks
provided by CMGA

Bring a side dish or dessert and
a plant (or more for the
exchange).

SPOUSES AND CHILDREN
ARE WELCOME!!

We need to know how many to
prepare for so please contact

Diane Abolt

or

Loan Tidwell

***NOTES FROM THE DESK OF
GAYLEN YOUNG
VICE PRESIDENT, CMGA***



The Coastal Master Gardeners have had more volunteer opportunities this spring than you can shake pruning shears at – or a stick you’ve just cut. One of the pleasures of being a Master Gardener is the multitude of chances to help make our community more beautiful. And a grand opportunity awaits us in working with the Chatham County Department of Public Works and Park Services to help plan and install gardens in parks that are to be paved or otherwise reworked over the next year or two. You’ll be hearing more about this as the time comes near.

Volunteering can become a full time job, it seems. There are a multitude of requests for help in the spring, with many projects occurring on the same day. We’ve tried very hard to get information out to you in a timely manner, to help you plan your calendar as far in advance as possible. Kudos to Diane Houston and her Projects and Programs Committee to helping us get organized on special projects. Remember, if you want your project approved for Master Gardener hours, you must submit a summary of the project to the P&P Committee for its okay. Many projects are grand fathered into the approved hours because they are continued from previous years. However, the P&P Committee would appreciate your notifying them of your activities.

When we became Master Gardeners, we made a commitment to the community. Our volunteer hours contribute to making the places where we live that much more pleasurable. I hope you can look around Savannah and begin to point with pride at the many projects in which you’ve participated. Our willingness to volunteer is what makes working with other Master Gardeners such a pleasure.

Gaylen Young
CGMA Vice President 2005

MEMBERSHIP/CALLING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Happy Spring to everyone!! What a beautiful time of the year for gardeners, and it is a prime time for us to volunteer, and accumulate our required hours to maintain certification. Help your community by volunteering and meet your neighbors—the CMGA calendar will give you the details.

We currently have 105 members, an 8% increase over 2004, and we continue to grow. If you have not joined the CMGA for this year, please send your check and renewal form to us, so that you can continue to benefit from all we have to offer. You will see the renewal form with required information immediately following this article.

We want to introduce the Calling Committee to you. You will receive a call from one of these people so that we can determine how you would like for us to communicate with you, and also to provide you with important information if you prefer not to use email. Except for the 2005 class, who have a mentor assigned, this person will be your personal contact with the association, to provide any information that you may need. They are: Karen Agee(2003), Kathryn Earnest(1997), Terry Laidlaw(2002), Barbara Meyer(2002), Mary Ann Muller(2000), Shirley Tesh(2004), Loan Tidwell(1995), Helen Washington(1993), and of course, Jane Sommers(2002), and Jeannette Byrd(2002). When you hear from one of these people, please take the time to let them know your preferences, and return their call if they leave a phone message.

REMINDER: If your name, home address, phone number, or email address changes, please contact either Jane Sommers or Jeannette Byrd. We love to hear from you, and it helps us to keep your information current and correct.

Jeannette Byrd
Jane Sommers



**COASTAL MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
JANUARY 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

COUNTY: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Information
Changed Since
Last Year?
Check Here

WOULD YOU LIKE FOR THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER TO BE MAILED TO YOU INSTEAD OF SENT VIA EMAIL? _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (Check one)

MASTER GARDENER _____ YEAR TRAINING COMPLETED: _____ Dues: \$15

FRIEND OF COASTAL MASTER GARDENERS _____ Minimum Donation: \$15

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: COASTAL MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

MAIL TO: JEANNETTE BYRD
506 STUART COURT
SAVANNAH, GA 31405



NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Diane Houston, Chair

Diane Abolt

Betsey Smith

Katty Smith

Loan Tidwell

Gaylen Young

Jay Ullrich



PROGRAMS

How about all those gardening activities in March!?! Well, there's more ahead! In April we welcome new Master Gardeners from the Class of 2005 at the CMGA picnic, and in May there will be a special tour for gardeners of an art installation at the Old County Jail. May also brings a two-day seminar on Turf and a special speaker on Landscape Design for Homeowners. June's highlight is a trip to the Botanical Gardens at Georgia Southern. Check the CMGA Calendar for other events of interest to Master Gardeners.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the **April 30th CMGA Picnic to welcome the new Master Gardeners from the Class of 2005**. The picnic will be held at the Pavilion at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens beginning at 11:30 am. You bring a side dish or a dessert and CMGA will provide fried chicken and drinks. There will also be a plant exchange. The program will be several short talks about CMGA and some of the volunteer activities supported by CMGA. - Everyone is invited but **please, let us know how many will be attending so we have enough chicken for all**. Contact Diane Abolt or Loan Tidwell.

We are beginning our meetings this year with refreshments and social time at 6:30 pm followed by a very short business meeting at 7:00 and the speaker. Another new feature will be a regular raffle which will be fun and add a few dollars to our treasury. In February Bill Lutes had the winning ticket for a beautiful basket of wine and gourmet items donated by Diane Abolt. Diane Abolt will be handling the raffles and will welcome any donations by members or friends of CMGA.

Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 10 at the Bamboo Farm. Sandy Hardy will be on hand to teach us all about the care of Orchids. Sandy is a Master Gardener and Vice President of the Deep South Orchid Society. She usually has some beauties to show off (and perhaps one to raffle). The July meeting, at Hospice House, will feature Philip Schretter, Maintenance Supervisor of the AASU Arboretum. Those of you who attended last year's field trip to the Arboretum will remember Philip as a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable plantsman.

PROJECTS

THANK YOU for your great response to so many projects in March and early April. Often e-mail or newsletter pleas go unanswered; so it was very encouraging to hear from so many, both new and veteran MGs.

Thanks to Dave Linnell and Bill Lutes for their pruning instruction at LeConte Woodmanston on March 11 and to these Master Gardeners who braved rose thorns and blisters: Jane Sommers, Bill Lutes, Frank and Marion Stapp, Lucy Cooper, Ella Russell, Helen Watson, Jack Kerr, Joe Rice, Ginger Pruden, Ellen and Charles Finley, and Terry Laidlaw.

Jan VandenBulck was very pleased with the MG turn out to plant Paxton Park on March 29: Jeannette Byrd, Louise Grotheer, Jane Sommers, Frank Stapp, Marion Stapp and John West.

Savannah Garden Expo volunteers for the walking tours included Jane Crawford, Louise Grotheer, Ann Inglis, Kathleen McClair, Gabrielle Pollock, Diana Shelley, Jane Sommers, Marion Stapp, Jay Volker, Sarah Volker, Gaylen Young and

Freya Zipperer. Volunteers for “Ask A Master Gardener” were Marty Barnes, Jeannette Byrd, Camille Fisher, Jean Hancock, Kelly Lockamy, Bill Lutes, Birgitte McDaniel, Barbara McPipkin, Gabrielle Pollock, Ginger Pruden, Barbara Purvis, Bob Quattlebaum, Jane Sommers Frank Stapp, Thomas Tengg and John West. Thanks also to Jane Sommers for helping with the planning and execution and Bill Lutes for copying materials and gathering the literature and handouts.

I know that MANY of you also volunteered for Spring Festival at Bamboo Farm and for the Hatchery at Oglethorpe Mall. I apologize for not having those lists to print. Finally, please notice that several names are repeated many times and the person who sends the e-mails encouraging us to “Get out there and volunteer!” was involved in every event listed.

Projects coming up: Sarah Query could use lots of volunteers for the up-coming Strawberry Supper. Stay tuned for news of a potential partnership between CMGA and the Chatham County Park Services for beautifying county parks.

Finally, we are in the process of compiling a complete list of “approved” Master Gardener projects. This will be available at the April 30 picnic along with the Project Approval Form. In the meantime, be assured that any projects mentioned in this newsletter, in Jane Sommers’ e-mails or at CMGA meetings are approved projects for which credit will be given. If you still have questions about what is “approved”, call Projects chair, Diane Houston.

For the new class, 30 hours, out of the total 50 hours, are to be done on the Hotline at the Extension Office or at the Roots and Shoots program at Bamboo Farm. Training time may be included as part of the 30 hours. That means that those Class of 2005 members who helped at the Garden Expo with “Ask A Master Gardener” can count those hours toward the 20 “where ever” hours, but not toward the 30 earmarked for Hotline or Roots and Shoots.

Perhaps this is the time to remind everyone that **the purpose of the Master Gardener program is to train gardeners to answer questions and provide information to the public under the auspices of the Cooperative Extension Service.** The Extension office receives more questions every week than any one, or even two, extension agents can possibly answer. Dave is asking the new class to do what we were trained for: to provide accurate information to the gardening public.

OATLAND ISLAND HAPPENINGS

Oatland island is just greening up and everything looks nice. We can see that we will need to replace some plants in the herb garden. The heritage garden will need some plants also. There is no budget for new plants so we ask that the members donate any extra plants, especially heritage plants, herbs, plants that need to be divided and plants that are good for propagation. We will try to accumulate new plants, of any and all types that are saleable this year and have them available for sale next spring. We will be working most Sat mornings (and some are working during the week) until the hot weather when there will be less activity. The summer schedule will be adjusted weekly depending on rain and temperature modified needs. My impatiens will be available soon. The late spring has delayed germination and they are now just a half inch high so I don't know what the yield will be (or when). Please reserve your orders now. Call George Clarkson.

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Bamboo Farm: Sarah Query - 921-5460
Carver School: Nancy Baker – 727-4823
Extension Office: Barbara or Maytress – 652-7981
Goodwill Industries: Bill Lutes – 897-5738
Hospice House: Diane Abolt – 629-1081
LeConte Woodmanston Plantation: Lucy Cooper – 884-2445
Oatland Island Heritage Garden: George Clarkson - 897-4341
Owens-Thomas House: Diane Houston 233-7919
Savannah Tree Foundation: Diane Houston – 233-7919

LECONTE WOODMANSTON RICE PLANTATION

LeConte-Woodmanston, a 19th century rice plantation, was the location of a recent CMGA pruning demonstration and workday. Located in Liberty County near Riceboro, Woodmanston was the home of Louis LeConte, who planted and nurtured a 1-acre floral and botanical garden of international repute. LeConte's two sons, John and Joseph, also achieved international fame as educators and scientists.

By the 1970's all that was left of LeConte's garden was one red camellia seedling. Now, 64 acres of the Plantation's original 3,300 have been preserved and are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Garden Club of Georgia has recreated an interpretation of LeConte's 1-acre garden on the original site.

On March 11 thirteen Coastal Master joined other volunteers, board members and staff from the LeConte Woodmanston Foundation to learn about pruning and to put their skills to use in the gardens. Dave Linvill, Chatham County Extension Agent, began the demonstration with LeConte pear trees that had not been pruned in some years. Then he directed everyone to divide up into groups and put into practice what they had learned. Dave supervised each group's work. The board members also consulted with Dave on problems with drainage, fertilization and irrigation. Bill Lutes supervised the pruning of roses and other over-grown shrubs, concentrating on removal of dead wood and thinning to promote better circulation. After a break for lunch the pruning continued. Some MGs also helped plant herbs and heirloom roses.

John Ryan, staff member, gave us a tour of the old plantation and talked about the history of the LeConte family. Nature trails, laid out on the plantation's rice dikes, took us into the swamp to see fantastic cypress and tupelo trees. We learned about the clearing of the fields, the cultivation of rice and saw how trunk gates were used to control the water. Although we did not see any alligators or snakes we did surprise an armadillo on the hike.

The LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation guides the development of the site as an educational center for those interested in ecology, botany, natural history and the plantation heritage of coastal Georgia. Restoration is ongoing. Visitors may take self-guided tours along the nature trails and into the swamps. To learn more about LeConte go to the web site at www.libertytrail.com/leconte.html.

I think all of us would agree this is a site worth visiting! And worth preserving! We hope Master Gardeners, particularly those from Liberty and Bryan counties, will consider volunteering at LeConte-Woodmanston on a regular basis. We also hope to plan future workdays at LeConte to introduce more Master Gardeners to this special and beautiful piece of Georgia history.



COMMENTS FROM EXTENSION AGENT DAVID LINVILL



I need at least 8 or 9 people to sign up for the Master Gardener May 6&7 Turf Seminar. This two day course will be taught by Clint Waltz and Alfredo Martinez. The purpose of this seminar is to train a core of Master Gardeners who can help people with their turf problems. The only cost will be buying a turf book that costs about \$50. Friday will be lecture and Saturday will be hands on where we go to people's houses and look at real problems. Last years class said this was the best course they ever took and I agree. I will have to cancel this course unless I get enough people to sign up. I would also like last years people to take this course again (no charge since you already have the book) and maybe also help teach the course. A few people have signed up but I know that schedules change and things happen. I would like everybody who wants to take this course (whether they signed up before or not) call me at 652-7981 to register. If I am not in the office just leave me your NAME & PHONE number on my voice mail THIS WEEK. I will then call you next week with the details. Secondly - I want to thank all the volunteers who helped at the Chick Hatchery. It was a lot of fun and many thousands of people got to see the live birth of the chicks. Keep up the good work. Third - Don't forget to take pictures of all the projects you are working on. I think it would be great to make a Coastal Master Gardener Power Point presentation in the future and maybe even submit to the state Master Gardener Association.

Congratulations to the new 2005 Master Gardener Class. They all passed their final exam and have been busy fulfilling their Master Gardener hours already. This is an ambitious class with many of them already helping at Spring Festival, pruning at the rice plantation, building an electric deer fence at the Bamboo Farm, giving Roots & Shoots tours, and much more. This is indeed, an exciting group of people to be with. One criticism they had of their training is that they did NOT get to meet many of the seasoned Coastal Master Gardeners. They wanted to get to know you and find out what you are involved with. Their success now depends on you. They are willing to work. All you need to do is ask them. Get them involved with all the wonderful work that the Coastal Master Gardener Association is doing. The only major complaint they had was there were many different subjects which were not covered such as landscape design, flower arranging and others. This is where the Coastal Master Gardener Association needs to take over and continue with everyone's education. Get involved!!

David Linvill
Cooperative Extension Service
PO Box 9866
Savannah, GA 31412
(912) 652-7981
Fax (912) 652-7989

COASTAL MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION CALENDAR FOR 2005

APR	15-17	F-Su	Deep South Orchid Society Show: "The Birds, the Bees & Orchids, Savannah Mall
	16	Sa	* Earth Day - Forsyth Park - Call Mary Ann Muller 536-9348
	17	Sun	* Strawberry Festival, 5 pm Bamboo Farm, S. Query - 921-5460
	22&23	Fr/Sa	* N.O.G.S. (North of Gaston Street) Garden Tour - 10 to 5, volunteers work half day and receive complimentary ticket. Call Betsey Smith at 898-3660
	23	Sat	* Hospice Workday - 9 - noon, contact Diane Abolt 629-1081
	30	Sat	CMGA Picnic to Welcome Class of 2005, 11:30 at Pavilion, Bamboo Farm Spouses and Children invited!!
MAY	3	Tue	"Resurrection" at the Old County Jail - join the artist for a walking tour especially for gardeners, 4 pm to 7 pm
	6&7	Fr/S	Two-Day Seminar on Turf taught by UGA Turf Specialists Clint Waltz & Alfredo Martinez. Must register by April 1. Call David Linvill 652-7981
	9	Mon	* Hospice Workday - 9 - noon, contact Diane Abolt 629-1081
	10	Tue	CMGA Meeting - Bamboo Farm, Sandy Hardy to speak on Orchids 6:30 Refreshments & Social time, 7:00 Meeting
	14	Sat	Landscape Design for Homeowners by David Berle 9 am to 12 noon at the Bamboo Farm, Cost for MGs \$15, General Public \$20
	21	Sat	* Hospice Work Day - 9 - noon, contact Diane Abolt 629-1081
	21	Sat	CMGA Board of Directors meeting
JUNE	4	Sat	CMGA Field Trip to GA. Southern Botanical Gardens Respond to Betsey Smith
	25	Sat	CMGA Officers Meeting
	25	Sat	* Hospice Workday - 9 - noon, contact Diane Abolt 629-1081
JULY	1	Fri	Deadline for Newsletter
	11	Mon	Newsletter published
	12	Tue	CMGA Meeting, 6:30 pm, Hospice, Speaker Philip Schretter, AASU Arboretum

* **Volunteers needed**



<p><i>President..... Karen Agee</i> <i>V. President..... Gaylen W. Young</i> <i>Secretary..... Mary Ann Muller</i> <i>Treasurer..... Rena Feiler</i></p>	<p><i>Director..... Jeanne Byrd</i> <i>Director..... Terry Laidlaw</i> <i>Director..... Mary Ann Muller</i> <i>Director..... Loan Tidwell</i> <i>Director..... Diane Houston</i> <i>Director..... George Clarkson</i> <i>Director..... Bill Lutes</i> <i>Director..... Jane Sommers</i> <i>Director..... Lucy Cooper</i></p>	<p><i>Projects & Programs... Diane Houston</i> <i>Membership..... Jeannette Byrd</i> <i>Calling..... Jane Sommers</i></p>
---	--	---

Coming Event
**Lecture presentation by Professor David Berle Saturday, May
14
9:00 am to noon at The Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens**

The Coastal Master Gardener Association is pleased to host Professor David Berle and his presentation “Landscape Design For Homeowners” on Saturday May 14 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at The Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens Conference Center.

The three-hour illustrated talk will cover the basic principals of landscape design through drawing a site plan. It will include examples of common landscape design problems and various solutions, along with creative project ideas. There will be two refreshment breaks, and a short question and answer session will follow.

David Berle has over 25 years of horticulture experience including owning two landscape businesses and an ornamental nursery. He holds a B.S. and Masters degree in Horticulture and a Masters in Landscape Architecture. He is currently a professor of horticulture in the Horticulture Department at the University of Georgia and has landscape design responsibilities with the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. He has recently completed writing the landscape design chapter of the Georgia Master Gardener handbook.

Admission to the presentation is a \$15.00 donation from current Master Gardeners and \$20 for other garden enthusiasts and is payable at the door beforehand. The event is open on a first-come; first-served basis as seating is limited.

Direct questions to Jay Ulrich.

Thanks for your Help!!



Jean Norris is retiring from her position as secretary of CMGA to enjoy some well earned leisure time, and we thank her for her service to the Association. Jean has done a super job and will be missed. Mary Ann Muller will step up to act as secretary and we welcome her aboard.